

questions ; but I would note that the fact which constitutes the subject of this note is not so novel as might be supposed. Jean Bauhin, in his 'Historia Plantarum' (1651), expresses himself as follows with regard to this same plant, which he calls *Gramen Parnassi*:—"Quinque radiatis staminibus, albis apicibus . . . quibus totidem interjecta alternatim staminum flavescentium *muscaria*." The double meaning of this last word may perfectly well be interpreted in favour of the fact which I now point out ; and the "flycatcher" would thus have been recognized more than two centuries ago.

M. Duval-Jouve, in connexion with these organs and with my observations, has been kind enough to communicate to me the manner in which he regards their morphological signification. With the learned botanist of Montpellier the *muscaria* would be organs derived from those that we meet with at the base of the petals of the Hellebores. If these glanduliferous twists be cleft longitudinally, we get, by spreading out the unrolled twist, the surface of a floral gland. To render the similitude more striking, it is necessary only to suppose the gland which occupies the bottom of the cone divided and transferred to the apex of each of the fibro-vascular axes which, as I have ascertained, exist to the number of from 13 to 15 in the parenchyma of the organ. According to this mode of contemplating the facts, the *Parnassia* would have to be placed close to the Ranunculaceæ, as has already been done ; but in accepting this interpretation it would be necessary to ascribe what seems to me a very wide part, not only to the transformation of the organ, but also to the physiological appropriation of its parts ; therefore, from the narrow point of view with which I have to do, I should be more willing to follow present systematists in approximating the *Parnassia* to the Saxifrageæ and Droseraceæ, which, as we know from Darwin\*, include numerous cases of well-ascertained carnivory, whilst nothing of the sort has hitherto been observed among the Ranunculaceæ.—*Comptes Rendus*, January 3, 1876, p. 99.

"Ornithological Errors in the 'Reliquiæ Aquitanicæ.'"

To the Editors of the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*.

GENTLEMEN,—Professor Jones (*Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* ser. 4, xvii. pp. 263, 264) seems to charge me with unfairness in not imputing blame to him as regards the ornithological errors in the 'Reliquiæ Aquitanicæ.' If it will afford him any satisfaction, allow me to withdraw my expression so far as he is concerned, and impute to him the blame of not cancelling the sheet containing those errors, of which he was informed by me before it was issued to the public.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Magdalene College, Cambridge,  
March 3, 1876.

Your obedient Servant,  
ALFRED NEWTON.

\* *Insectivorous Plants*, 1875.